

SENATE RESOLUTION 28

By Gresham

A RESOLUTION recognizing the women in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics fields during Women's History Month.

WHEREAS, the members of this legislative body are honored to recognize the women in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields during Women's History Month; and

WHEREAS, the number of women in science and engineering is growing, but men continue to outnumber women, especially at the higher levels of these professions; and

WHEREAS, though girls and boys take math and science courses in roughly equal numbers and leave high school prepared to pursue science and engineering majors in college, fewer women pursue STEM majors, with women accounting for only 20% of the individuals earning bachelor's degrees in certain STEM fields; and

WHEREAS, women represent an even smaller percentage of individuals pursuing graduate degrees in science and technology, and the number continues to decline upon transition into the workplace; and

WHEREAS, STEM fields are widely regarded as being critical to the national economy, and concern about America's ability to be competitive in the global economy has led to a number of calls to action to strengthen the pipeline into these fields; and

WHEREAS, expanding and developing the STEM workforce is a critical issue for government, industry leaders, and educators and, despite the tremendous gains that girls and women have made in education and the workforce over the past fifty years, the progress has been uneven, and certain scientific and engineering disciplines remain overwhelmingly male; and

WHEREAS, STEM jobs are projected to grow by 17% and to produce 2.8 million new job openings, while job growth in other professions is projected to be less than 10%; and

WHEREAS, between 2004 and 2014, the share of bachelor's degrees earned by women decreased in all seven science and engineering disciplines, with the biggest decrease coming in the computer sciences, in which the share of bachelor's degrees earned by women fell from 23% to 18%; and

WHEREAS, while the average wage disparity for women is 77% of the wages earned by men in commensurate positions, women in STEM careers earn ninety-two cents for each dollar men earn; and

WHEREAS, women make up 50% of the national workforce, but are only 24% of the STEM workforce; and

WHEREAS, the women who work and study in STEM fields are wholly deserving of the recognition of this body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that, during this Women's History Month, celebrated in March of 2015, we hereby recognize and commend the women who work and study in STEM fields and encourage young women throughout the State to pursue education and careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.